Supreme Court of the Philippines. Its members may sit either *m bane* or in two divisions. No treaty or law may be declared unconstitutional without the concurrence of two-thirds of all the members of the Court. The conclusions of the Supreme Court in any case submitted to it according to the Constitution, shall be reached in 'consultation before the case is assigned to a Justice for the writing of the opinion of the Court. The Supreme Court is granted the rule-making power.

I was named to the Supreme Court by President Wilson in 1917 at the unheard-of age of thirty-five, which would be impossible under the Philippine Commonwealth because the Constitution fixes forty as the minimum age of eligibility, and seventy as the age of retirement. It was a non-political ap-pointment, for the President never inquired as to my politics.

I served on the Court until after the inauguration of the Philippine Commonwealth, when I was the member with the longest service. During these eighteen years, in addition to my other official duties I prepared three thousand three hun-dred opinions, or an average of over one hundred and eighty a year. I take justifiable pride in that record. Speaking from the vantage-ground of my long experience on the Court, I sincerely believe that the members of the highest tribunal of the Philippines have given much more than value received in the fearless performance of arduous duties, and have been inspired solely by the desire to hand down correct decisions promptly and to serve the public well and efficiently.

THE PHILIPPINES BEFORE THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT [6]

From the beginning of American occupation, the Supreme Court of the United States has been the final court of review for Philippine cases, and will continue to exercise similar

[6] **See Philippine Commonwealth and Independence Law, sees, z (*), (13), 7 (6) in relation with sec, 7 of the Act of Congress of February 13, 1925.**